

Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman

It's Been a Long Time

Like 27 years worth of a long time 'cause if you'll recall it was 27 years ago this Saturday that the Pearl Harbor thing took place and what a wild struggle to get back into the normal swing of things. But we're back now and eating high off the hog once again.

And speaking of eating high off the hog, that new Harborlight Restaurant on Western Avenue in San Pedro is an excellent spot for just that kind of action.

Cocktail hour is a big time down there when they feature a tempting array of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres from 4:30 'til 7 p.m. One other thing that makes it one of the more popular spots for cocktail hour is the drastic reduction in price.

To further enhance your sojourn at the Harborlight, you get one of the most magnificent panoramic views of the giant Los Angeles harbor of any where in the area.

Makes for one of the most interesting spots in Southern California for either cocktails or dinner, seven days a week.



TOUTING TOTIE . . . But Totie Fields does her own touting, actually, currently playing the Starlite Theatre of the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas to SRO audiences nightly.

curious club has opened its beautiful suites for public occupancy and you couldn't wish for a more lovely spot for a weekend or a week, now with the season just getting under way at the desert.

The Shadow Mountain Club offers tennis, golf, and the largest swimming pool in the West. Not only all that but excellent cuisine, dining and dancing every night.

Suggest you make reservations here, though. Call (714) 346-6123 and nail down some space for a luxurious vacation or holiday.

That should be quite a spectacular sight down there in the main channel of the Los Angeles Harbor. The SS Princess Louise has been rigged with a whole bunch of flashing lights from stem to stern as well as the masts and smoke stack.

This is in preparation for the Boat Parade, rightly named "Christmas Afloat" which takes place Dec. 21 and the Princess Louise will be the hub of activity since the parade starts on the main channel where the Princess is now permanently berthed next to the old Terminal Island Ferry Building. The parade will then continue south to the L.A. Harbor entrance.

Jointly sponsored by the Port of Los Angeles and the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce, applications for entry of Christmas decorated boats may be obtained from the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce.

As all who have visited the Princess Louise must know, she was at one time an ocean-going luxury liner before being converted to public shipboard dining.

The Princess is open every day for luncheon, cocktails, dinner, and banquet meetings. An ideal spot to hold that Holiday party you're planning.

Let's see, now, you've still got a day or two to catch peggy Lee in the Versailles Room of the Riviera Hotel along with Peter Nero.

This bill folds Dec. 7 and from then 'til the 18th the room will be "dark" while the hotel prepares for their new show which will open Dec. 19 featuring Miltz Gaynor through the holidays.

However, over in the Starlite Theatre, you'll find Toti Fields and Johnny Tillotson through Dec. 10, followed by Sheeky Greene and Sonny King regaling



PRETTY IS IS PRETTY DOES . . . Probably about the prettiest part of the big Ernie Menehune Revue at Hop Louie's Latitude 20 in Torrance is dancers Tahina, center, and the Waikiki Twins. Christmas and New Year's reservations are suggested well in advance for this one.

ing the patrons through the holidays. Louis Armstrong comes in through Jan. 2. So there, you have all that.

And down the strip a ways at the Hotel Tropicana, hope you weren't planning on taking in the Folie Bergere in the big room 'cause it's this time of year that they, too, close down in order to bring the spanking new 1969 edition of the Folies to you and this is when they smooth out any of the rough spots for your enjoyment.

They'll be in full swing, though on New Years Eve, you can bet. Don't know who will be doing the lounge bit as the schedule we have merely says "open" through Dec. 19 and then on the 20th.

Yep, they've got 'em! The Marshmallows, that is, over at the Torrance Ramada Inn on Pacific Coast Highway in Torrance.

This fine group consists of Phil Porreca on the accordovox, Frank Smith on drums, and Eileen Marsh singin' and swingin' with the maracas. A most exciting group, highly versatile with many great sounds.

They go from the soft dinner-music type stuff, to swing, to rock and even Latin-American tunes. Yes, they even slip in a Western number every once in a while.

Another thing about the Marshmallows is they're seldom stuck when requested to do some particular tune. An endless repertoire.

You can catch this talented group nite at the Torrance Ramada Inn with the exception of Mondays and Tuesdays. They open for mood music and dancing at 8:30 on Wednesday through Saturday then on Sundays it's from 7 in the evening for your dancing and listening pleasure.

Whoops! Here's a deal you shouldn't pass up in the event you find yourself in the Santa Barbara area on the 15th of December.

Through special cable TV connections, the Santa Barbara Inn will be bringing you the Rams-Colts game on that day and where's your seat? Right on the 50-yard line, that's where you seat is and in full color. How's that grab you!

Also on that day, the chef has prepared a special buffet for service in the beautiful Sky Room of this popular Santa Barbara spot and where you may also enjoy your favorite libation while enjoying the game in the warm comfort of this dinner house featuring a breathtaking view of the Pacific Ocean if you wish to rest your eyes from the excitement of the game.

It's just a short but pleasant drive to the Santa Barbara Inn with ample parking, and for those of you who might want to stay over nite they boast deluxe accommodations.

Incidentally here's a good way for you to dispatch that "hard-to-buy-for" Christmas gift. This International Gourmet Society Award-winning hotel-restaurant features gift certificates for luncheons, dinners, cocktails, overnight stays or any combination. A most inexpensive way to present a highly attractive gift. Might keep in mind.

For additional information, call the Santa Barbara Inn, Milpas at Cabrillo in Santa Barbara. (805) 966-2285.

Guess you know that this Sunday's performance of Massenet's "Manon" concludes the highly successful New York City Opera engagement in the

GIFTED GROUP . . . The Derry O'Leary Trio appear nite-ly in the beautiful Sky Room of the Santa Barbara Inn, in the city of the same name. This group recently finished a six-month engagement in the Garden Room of the Plaza Hotel, in Century City. The Sky Room is open seven nites a week with dinners served from 5 p.m.

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FLAMENCO FLAME . . . She's pretty Flamenco dancer Carla Luna performing nite-ly in the cozy Flamenco Room of Bill Fremont's popular west side Matador Restaurant.

Music Center's Pavilion, so if you're going to catch it, better hurry and do it before Sunday.

Featured will be Beverly Sills, Enrico DiGiuseppe, Malcolm Smith, Richard Fredricks, Nico Castel, and Robert Hale in leading roles.

General director Julius Rudel will be conducting.

Also while we're on the subject of entertainment in Los Angeles you might like to know that the current hit show at the

Huntington Hartford Theatre, "Plaza Suite" has announced a change of the Christmas Day matinee.

Because Christmas falls on Wednesday this year the usual mid-week matinee will be changed to Thursday, Dec. 26, at 2:30 p.m.

Anyone holding tickets for the matinee Dec. 25 may exchange them at the theatre box office for the Thursday performance.

Or perhaps another more convenient matinee performance, if you so desire.

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